

## Message Text

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51

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

----- 103295

O 311445Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9261

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6138

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET CASC

SUBJ: TENNECO SEVEN

REFS: (A) ADDIS 5927; (B) ADDIS 5929;

(C) ADDIS 6047; (B) STATE 114169

1. SHEIKH'S LANDROVER REAPPEARED ASMARA WITHOUT HIM MORNING  
MAY 30 BUT DRIVER HAD REQUEST FROM ELF FOR FIVE JERRYCANS AVGAS.  
THIS WAS SUPPLIED.

2. TENNECO'S MR. WELDON GRAHAM BEING SENT BACK TO KHARTOUM  
JUNE 1 (ON ET-783 DUE THERE 1325 HOURS LOCAL). HE IS TO MEET  
WITH ELF/GC'S ZEIN AND TO SAY IN ESSENCE THAT TENNECO'S  
NEGOTIATOR (BURGHER), WHO NOW EN ROUTE FROM HOUSTON DUE ARRIVE  
KHARTOUM ASAP, VIZ. MONDAY (JUNE 3) HAVING BEEN UNABLE GET  
THERE SOONER. APPRECIATE KHARTOUM RESERVING GRAHAM SINGLE WITH  
BATH AND FACILITATING AIRPORT VISA IN CASE EFFORTS HERE OBTAIN  
ONE PRIOR GRAHAM'S DEPARTURE FAIL. FYI - BURGHER AND WILSON  
DUE ADDIS JUNE 1 END FYI.

3. ACCORDING TENNECO'S BOGAN, TWO MESSAGES WERE DELIVERED EVENING  
MAY 30 TO GOVGEN OF GHINDA (WOREDA). ONE SAID HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED  
TO MR. DORTZBACH AND ONE TO AMCONGEN. GOVGEN OF GHINDA REFUSED  
ACCEPT MESSAGES AND HAD THEM ROUTED TO RAILWAY MANAGER GETACHEW  
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MEDHANI (CF ADDIS 5667) OR COL. YASUWORK IN ASMARA. THIS SAID

HAVE COME TO ATTENTION MISSIONARIES (UNSPECIFIED) WHO SURREPTITIOUSLY FOLLOWED MESSENGER. MESSENGER DELIVERED MESSAGES TO GETACHEW, WHO TOOK THEM TO YASUWORK. MISSIONARIES INFORMED TENNECO'S WILSON. WILSON SPOKE WITH YASUWORK, WHO DENIED RECEIVING MESSAGES BUT STATED HIS EXPECTATION MESSAGES WOULD ARRIVE TODAY OR TOMORROW. COMMENT: TENNECO REPS'READING - AND OURS - IS THAT YASUWORK WANTS TIME FOR IEG TO CONSIDER CONTENTS MESSAGES BEFORE THEY (OR SUBSTITUTES?) ARE PASSED ON. END COMMENT. CONGEN ASMARA IS PURSUING MESSAGES.

3. TENNECO REPS TELL US THEY HAVE CONCORDANT REPORTS FROM THREE SEPARATE SOURCES STRONGLY SUGGESTING SHEIKH'S EFFORT STILL ON RAILS. TENNECO REPS INCLINED BELIEVE THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS SHOULD BE EXPECTED THIS WEEKEND. THEY HINTED THESE MAY TAKE FORM OF RELEASE AT LEAST ONE CAPTIVE AND PRESENTATION CAPTORS' TERMS.

4. TENNECO REPS OF OPINION THAT PUBLICITY EFFORTS, PRESS RELEASES WARNING AGAINST TRAVEL IN ERITREA, ETC., ALREADY PAYING DIVIDENDS AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED. WE CONCUR. APPRECIATE CONTENTS STATE 113791 NOTAL.

5. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR REYNOLDS BRIEFED ON GIST REF D. HE MOST RELIEVED AT GOC'S DECISION. REYNOLDS HAD SOME TIME AGO REQUESTED MEETING WITH NEW IEG FONMIN ZEWDE (EX-MININT) AND EXPECTS SEE HIM TUESDAY BEFORE LATTER LEAVES FOR MOGADISCIO OAU CM, WEDNESDAY. FOLLOWING PARA PERTAINS.

6. TENNECO REPS CONCUR WITH US THAT IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF SITUATION, TACTICS AND OPTIONS LIKELY PROVE TIMELY EARLY MONDAY (JUNE 3). BY THEN WEEKEND'S DEVELOPMENTS, OR LACK THEREOF, MAY HAVE SHED FURTHER LIGHT ON SHEIKH'S PROGRESS/FAILURE; WILSON AND BURGHER WILL HAVE REACHED ADDIS AFTER CONFERRING WITH FREEMAN, CHAIRMAN TENNECO'S BOARD, IN ATHENS. WE PLAN CABLE OUTCOME THIS REVIEW TO DEPARTMENT PROMPTLY, AND I CAN JOIN REYNOLDS IN HIS MEETING WITH ZEWDE TUESDAY IF JOINT APPROACH TO IEG SEEMS WARRANTED THEN. REVIEW SHOULD ALSO YIELD INSTRUCTIONS TO BURGHER FOR HIS MEETING WITH ZEIN LATER THAT DAY. WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

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